

CLARK COUNTY TOBACCO MAY
BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELYAmerican Will Begin To Receive 1906 Crop Next Week—Farmers
Will Probably Begin To Get Their Money In The Near Future.

Every effort has been made by The News to learn the full details of the contract made between the Burley Tobacco Society and the American Tobacco Company. Mr. Brooks, Secretary of the Society, was out of town, and all efforts to locate him failed.

In a number of counties, the tobacco has not been prized and is not in shape to be delivered. In this county, however, it has been redried, and can be delivered at once. In all probability it was stated that the American Tobacco Company will begin to receive the 1906 crop next week. The samples are all here in the warehouse and it will not take a great deal of time to deliver it, provided the American Tobacco Company wants it all now.

The 1907 crop of this county can be delivered at once, and if it is, it will not be long before the money for this county will be turned over to the farmers.

Mr. Prewitt Talks.

Mr. S. T. Prewitt, who has been on the Board of Control for two years, said that he could not give out anything for a fact as he had not talked to anyone about it, but that he thought as Clark's tobacco had been prized it could be gotten out immediately. He did not see why it could not be done and the

money distributed in a short time. He said, however, that he did not know the terms of the contract and did not know how soon the cars could be gotten for the delivery. He also said that the Society will pool the 1909 crop.

To Pool 1909 Crop.

Mr. S. D. Goff, who has been connected with the Equity Redrying plant in this city stated Friday morning that he did not think it would be a hard matter to pool the 1909 crop in this county, as he knew but few who are now in the pool who are dissatisfied. He thinks there will be only an average crop raised next year.

Mr. Goff was very proud of the fact that the tobacco had been sold and said it means that the farmers have won a great fight and it will bring better times to the community. It is understood that the 25 per cent which was not sold to the American Tobacco Company was held for the independent concerns, and that they will meet here, November 24 to look the samples over and purchase what they will want. It is said that there are already enough orders on file in the Secretary's office to dispose of the full 25 per cent.

The Board of Control will meet here Tuesday, November 24.

circumstances and will make matters very much easier. Winchester's position in this matter has had more to do in advertising the city than anything that I know of. It will also help us, as all the money will have to pass through the banks in this city.

Relief to Winchester.

Mr. N. H. Witherspoon, president of the Winchester Bank, stated that the distribution of the money derived from the sale of this tobacco will be a great relief to Winchester and Central Kentucky.

Mr. J. Harry Allan of the firm of Allan & Murphy, said I am of the opinion that this sale of the tobacco will be of great benefit to all classes throughout the Blue Grass region not only for the money it turns loose but for the independence it gives the tobacco grower. This shows what strength they have when going together. I believe it will have excellent effect over all business.

This is Great News.

Mr. James S. Winn, of the Winn Furniture Company. This is great news, it means everything to the merchant and farmer. Owing to the fact that the farmer's money has been tied up it has made things a little tight, but everything will be all right now."

C. H. Bowen was glad to hear that the tobacco had been sold and said that a great victory had been won, which he had predicted. "It means a great deal to us all. Owing to the farmers strained condition it has made it hard on the merchants and when the money is collected and distributed it will ease up matters considerably."

Better Farm Houses.

Narval Benton, of the firm of Grubbs & Benton said that this means money to the farmer in the first place and "he is pretty apt to buy what he wants when he sees his way clear to pay for it and it opens the way for good times. It means more business and nearer to a cash basis. It will also mean better farm houses, farmers will have money to improve their farms and will now be able to buy better new and better farm implements."

GET AWAY WITH \$6,000.

Special to The News.

UTICA, Ohio, Nov. 20.—Robbers held the citizens at bay while they dynamited the safe of Renniger and Silex and escaped with six thousand dollars.

TWO ARE DROWNED.

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 20.—Joseph Meyer and Margaret Atkins were drowned when an automobile swerved from the bridge into Calumet river today.

DEMOCRATS ARE TO MEET IN
MASS CONVENTIONS SATURDAYEach Precinct In State Must Choose Committeeman—Hon John M.
Stevenson Mentioned For County Chairman Of Clark.

On Saturday afternoon, the Democrats of this and every other county in the State, in compliance with the rule passed at the last meeting of the State Democratic committee, will hold mass conventions in their respective voting precincts for the purpose of selecting one of their number as committeeman who will be a member of the county committee.

As the time draws near, indications are that there will be contests in several of the precincts in this county for the honor of being chosen as committeeman. In Renick it is said that Hon. Abe Renick and

Mr. McCormack are both on the slate for that precinct. In other precincts it is reported that there will be contests.

After the committeemen from each precinct have been chosen there will be another meeting held later on for the purpose of electing a chairman of the county committee to succeed Mr. Lee Baldwin. Hon. John M. Stevenson is prominently mentioned for county chairman. Mr. Baldwin has been chairman of the county committee for the past ten years but on account of being a candidate for Sheriff he cannot accept the office again.

SKETCH OF ORGANIZATION AND
GROWTH OF BURLEY SOCIETYHow Winchester Was Selected As Headquarters—From Small Beginning
To A Great Organization Of Many Thousand Farmers.

The sale by the Burley Tobacco Society of its holdings of 1906 and 1907, tobacco will doubtless interest many people in a history of the organization of that society. For many years past the tobacco business in Kentucky has been undergoing changes. The operation of the American Tobacco Company, the so-called trust, in purchasing and uniting with all rival concerns engaged in the manufacture and sale of tobacco, had gradually strangled the competition, which in former years had made the raising of tobacco such a lucrative business.

Various efforts by the planters to offset this, to them evil influence, had resulted in more or less complete failures. The so-called Hawkins movement the most ambitious of them, and the one that offered the greatest hope of success going down in defeat several years before the Equity Society entered the field.

Working Independently.

In March of 1906, two gentlemen, one Mr. H. E. Swain, a farmer near Smithfield in Henry county, and the other Dr. G. W. McMillan, a practicing physician and farmer of Pendleton county, independently learned of the existence of the American Society of Equity and its aims and work elsewhere, and conceived the idea that its organization in Kentucky would accomplish the desires of the tobacco planters.

They both organized local unions in their neighborhoods and began to organize others nearby and thus spreading from county to county until they finally learned of each others work by contact along the frontiers of their organized territories.

The First Conference.

This led to a conference and to a call for a meeting at New Castle in Henry county. At this meeting which occurred on October 2nd, 1906, eight counties responded to the call namely: Shelby, Spencer, Owen, Washington, Pendleton, Trimble, Henry and Grant. Mr. Swain was elected chairman and J. W. Dickson, of Spencer county secretary; a committee on constitution and bylaws was appointed and a form of pledge was adopted. Previously to the meeting a self-appointed committee had made investigation of a number of cities in the district to discover if possible the best place at which to locate headquarters and their report was that Winchester be the capital of the Burley district which was adopted.

Also a temporary Board of Control was appointed by selection from such counties as had not been sufficiently organized to elect delegates. The temporary board decided to hold its first meeting in the city of Winchester to prepare for a mass meeting to be held there on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, at which time it was hoped to give the organization a send-off that would insure its permanent success.

Whirlwind Campaign.

The whirlwind campaign which

created so much excitement in Kentucky and so much interest throughout the Union was planned at that meeting.

The services of the National Organizer, H. B. Sherman were secured and a host of other organizers placed throughout the district; and the next meeting called for December 3rd, 1906. At the first or New Castle convention, C. M. Hanna, of Shelby county, one of the most prominent and intelligent farmers in the State was elected chairman and H. E. Swain, secretary.

Local Man in Charge.

Mr. Swain becoming sick and unable to attend to his duties after the November meeting, Mr. Hanna came to Winchester and enlisted the sympathies of Mr. Lucien Beckner and placed him in charge of the office as headquarters. Up to this time and for some time after, there was no money in the treasury and the most wonderful part of the whole proceeding was that everybody worked without money and paid his own expenses; many of the delegates coming over one hundred miles to attend the meetings. Mr. Beckner had an office, a stenographer, a typewriter, stamped envelopes, all of which the society badly needed.

Twenty-Three Counties.

At the meeting of December 3rd, twenty-three counties answered present. As this was the first meeting of a regularly elected District Board the delegates organized by electing C. M. Hanna president and H. E. Swain secretary, also M. C. Rankin, of Henry county, the present efficient secretary of Agriculture, was elected vice-president. The treasurer's office was filled by electing the Clark County National Bank, to which was afterward added the Citizens National and People's State Banks, of this city.

Form of Pledge.

It was at this meeting that the Committee on Pledges brought in a form containing the proviso that it should not be binding "unless it least fifty (50) per cent of the white burley crop of tobacco grown in the year 1906 is signed up by the first day of January, 1907, which fact is to be declared by the District Board of this Society."

This clause caused the feverish pledging campaign which culminated in the dramatic meeting of January first, 1907, at which the pledges were counted and the fact determined that fifty-four per cent had been secured.

The fifteen cents average price had been determined on at a meeting of the Department of Tobacco Growers of the A. S. of E. at Clarksville, Tenn., in October, and this December meeting approved of and adopted this price and pledged it in the pledge.

It was also at this meeting that a fire eating speech was made, urging the planters to enter into a secret

(Continued on Page Four.)

BURLEY SOCIETY SELLS OVER
85,000,000 POUNDS OF TOBACCOMore Than \$12,000,000 Will Be Distributed To Farmers Of The Blue
Grass—1906 Crop Brings 20 1-2 Cents, 1907 Crop 17 Cents.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 20.—The burley tobacco growers of Kentucky won a great victory in their long fight for higher prices for their product when the big deal between the American Tobacco Company and the Burley Tobacco Society for the 1906 and 1907 crops, which has been hanging fire for several weeks, was closed here yesterday afternoon.

The price agreed on in the transaction, which is the largest of its kind ever put through, is an average of 20½ cents for the 1906 crop and 17 cents per pound for the 1907 product.

Deal Involves About \$14,000,000.

The deal involves about 85,000,000 pounds of tobacco held in the pool by the Burley Tobacco Society, and an outlay of between \$12,000,000 and \$14,000,000 on the part of the American Tobacco Company, practically all of this money being placed in circulation at once in Central Kentucky.

The tobacco which was sold includes the larger part of the holdings of the Burley Growers' Association, which was formed several years ago and which pooled its crops in 1906 and 1907. There was no crop raised by the members of the association in 1908.

Marks End of Night Riding.

According to many who are in a position to know, the sale of the pooled crop will mark the end of night riding in Central and Western Kentucky, for it is believed that, with these crops out of the way, all the growers will raise tobacco next year.

The sale has nothing to do with the crops in the dark district or in portions of Kentucky and Northern Tennessee.

The Official Statement.

The official statement given out at 4:05 o'clock yesterday afternoon was as follows:

"The American Tobacco Company has bought 75 per cent of the 1906 pooled tobacco at scheduled prices and 75 per cent of the 1907 pooled tobacco at graded prices to average 17 cents round.

(Signed.)

CLARENCE LEBUS."

R. K. SMITH,

The scheduled price for the 1906 tobacco is 20½ cents.

Those in the conference were: For the Burley Tobacco Society, Claude M. Thomas, Paris; Claude M. William, Versailles; C. C. Patrick, Lexington; John E. Brown, Shelbyville; John A. Larue, Shawhan, Bourbon county; S. A. Shanklin, Maysville; Dr. G. W. McMillan, Maysville; and Rhodes Thompson and L. J. Evans, Georgetown. For the American Tobacco Company, R. K. Smith, New York; John Middleton and Attorney S. J. Carroll, Louisville.

Mr. Carroll's Statement.

Mr. Carroll, as attorney for the Tobacco Company gave out the following statement in regard to the deal:

"Although the agreement was reached at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the contract was not drawn up and did not receive the necessary signatures until 11:30 last night.

"Last Friday the first conference in regard to this sale was held in Louisville at the Louisville Hotel. The American Tobacco Company at that time offered to purchase the entire 1906 crop at list prices averaging 20½ cents a pound and not less than 50,000,000 pounds nor more than 60,000,000 of the 1907 crop at 16 cents a pound, the proportion of the two crops to be four hogsheads of the 1907 to two hogsheads of the 1906 tobacco.

Proposition Rejected.

"This proposition was rejected by the society representatives and we then requested that the matter be taken up with the officers of the company to see if they were willing to pay the list price for the tobacco pooled in 1907, about 18 cents.

"The officials of the company, in view of the situation in Kentucky, were willing to meet the farmers half way and we were then authorized to raise the price of the 1907 crop to 16½ cents, provided the ratio of the 1906 crop taken was reduced, the

1906 tobacco being of a character that the company did not want at the prices named.

"As a counter proposition to the company's the Burley people offered 75 per cent of the 1906 tobacco at 20½ cents. In order to settle the long trouble the American Tobacco Company accented."

Publicity is Insisted Upon.

It was expressly understood that the entire details of the proceedings should be given to the public in order that the farmers might know just how the deal took place. This part was expressly insisted upon by Mr. Carroll, as the representative of the American Tobacco Company.

Large numbers of farmers came to Louisville yesterday in order to be near and receive the first tidings of the proposed deal. All day long they waited anxiously until the hotel lobbies.

When the news came like a flash that the tobacco had been sold immediately each man rushed to the nearest telephone booth or telephone office to fire messages of good cheer to the home folks until the telephone and telegraph companies were flooded with messages.

Delivery Begins November 24.

The delivery of this tobacco will begin November 24, according to the contract.

The representatives of the company and the officials of the society will go to the society's warehouses in Winchester and go over the graded samples and order the tobacco delivered accordingly. The tobacco is to be delivered to the nearest railway station at the expense of the Society. Upon its delivery to the railway company the American Tobacco Company assumes the risk and the expense.

It is expected that most of the 1906 crop and large part of the 1907 crop will be delivered within the next few weeks and the money turned over to the society. The weather this fall has been such as to hinder greatly and is expected to delay further the delivery of the 1907 crop.

It is too early to say what is to be the future of the society and the effect of this deal on the industry. Warehousemen in Cincinnati say that this will destroy their business. On the other hand Louisville warehousemen assert that they will be little affected.

SCOTT COUNTY WILL
GET ABOUT \$900,000.

GEORGETOWN, Ky., Nov. 20.—A telegram was received here by Mr. A. L. Ferguson, president of the Scott County Board of Control, at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon from Mr. Rhodes B. Thomas at Louisville notifying him of the sale of the tobacco crops to the American Tobacco Company.

Scott to Realize \$900,000.

"Scott county growers will realize about \$900,000 from the deal," said Mr. Ferguson last evening. "We have about a million pounds of the 1906 crop and about four million pounds of the 1907 crop in the pool.

"Peace between the trust and the grower seems now assured. It is my understanding that the company is now willing to establish business relations with the growers' organization.

"The night rider injured our cause to an extent that cannot be estimated, instead of helping. Violence may have prevented the planting of a very small proportion of the acreage, but the large majority of the burley growing acreage was pledged to the no-crop movement before the night riders became active.

"Because of this violence and the oppression of the trust, Kentucky had become one of the worst States in the Union. With the victory for the growers, as the settlement must be regarded, I believe Kentucky will be one of the best States in the Union."

MASON'S SHARE WILL
EXCEED A MILLION.

MAYSVILLE, Ky., Nov. 20.—Mason county growers will receive (Continued on page eight.)